

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ATTENDANCE

ADOPTED: October 20, 1986

REVISÉD: June 20, 2005

LOWER DAUPHIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

204. ATTENDANCE

- ## 1. Purpose

The Board requires that school-aged students enrolled in district schools attend school regularly, in accordance with state laws. The educational program offered by this district is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation in order for students to achieve academic standards and consistent educational progress.

The regular contact of students with one another in the classroom and participation in a well-planned instructional activity under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose.

2. Authority
SC 1301, 1302,
1327, 1329
Title 22
Sec. 11.11, 11.13,
11.23, 11.25,
11.41

Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in district schools during the days and hours that school is in session, except that a principal or teacher may excuse a student for temporary absences when receiving satisfactory evidence of mental, physical, or other urgent conditions that may reasonably cause the student's absence.

The Board considers the following conditions to constitute reasonable cause for absence from school:

1. Illness.
2. Quarantine.
3. Recovery from accident.
4. Required court attendance.
5. Death in family.
6. Family educational trips.

Title 22
Sec. 11.26

204. ATTENDANCE - Pg. 2

Pol. 204.1	7. Educational tours and trips, including post secondary school visitations.
Title 22 Sec. 11.22, 11.28 SC 1327, 1329 Pol. 115, 117, 118	Attendance need not always be within school facilities. A student will be considered in attendance under the following circumstances: if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board; the student is receiving approved tutorial instruction or health care; the student is engaged in an approved and properly supervised independent study, work-study or career education program; the student is receiving approved homebound instruction.
Title 22 Sec 11.21	All absences occasioned by observance of the student's religion on a day designated as a religious holiday by a bona fide religious group shall be excused, and no student so excused shall be deprived of an award or eligibility to compete for an award or the opportunity to make up a test given on the religious holiday.
SC 1546 Title 22 Sec. 11.21	The Board shall, upon written request of the parents or guardians, describing the instruction and dates and hours of requested absence, release from attendance a student participating in a religious instruction program. Such instruction shall not require the child's absence from school for more than thirty-six (36) hours per school year, and its organizers must inform the Board of the child's attendance record. The Board shall not provide transportation to religious instruction.
SC 1329	The Board shall permit a student to be excused for participation in a project sponsored by a statewide or countywide 4-H, FFA or combined 4-H and FFA group upon written request prior to the event.
Title 22 Sec. 11.23, 11.25	<p>The Board will recognize other justifiable absences for part of the school day. These shall include medical or dental appointments, court appearances, and family emergencies.</p> <p>Upon written parental request, a student may be excused during school hours for the purpose of obtaining professional health care or therapy service only if the following requirements are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The health or therapeutic services are to be rendered by Commonwealth licensed practitioners. 2. It is not practical or possible for the student to receive the services outside of school hours. 3. The time of necessary absence from school involves a minimum of interference with the student's regular program of studies.

	<p>The school district may provide students temporarily excused under this section with homebound instruction for a period not to exceed three (3) months. When a student receives homebound instruction, the student may be counted for attendance purposes as if in school.</p> <p>The Board shall excuse the following students from the requirements of attendance at the schools of this district:</p>
SC 1330	1. On certification by a physician or submission of other satisfactory evidence and on approval of the Department of Education, children who are unable to attend school or apply themselves to study for mental, physical or other reasons that preclude regular attendance.
Title 22 Sec. 11.5, 11.32	2. Students enrolled in nonpublic or private schools in which the subjects and activities prescribed by law are taught, except that such students and students attending college who are also enrolled part-time in the district schools shall be counted as being in attendance in this district.
SC 1327	3. Students fifteen (15) or sixteen (16) years of age whose enrollment in private trade or business schools has been approved.
SC 1330	4. Students fifteen (15) years of age, and fourteen (14) years of age who have completed sixth grade, who are engaged in farm work or private domestic service under duly issued permits.
SC 1330	5. Students sixteen (16) years of age regularly employed during the school session and holding a lawfully issued employment certificate.
	6. Students participating in a home education program in accordance with sections 1327(d) and 1327.1 of the School Code.
	7. Students receiving private instruction from a properly qualified tutor in accordance with the statutory qualifications.
	The Board may excuse the following students from the requirements of attendance at district schools:
Title 22 Sec. 11.22	<p>1. If for the purpose of receiving tutorial instruction in a field not offered in the district's curricula, only if the following requirements are met:</p> <p>a. The excusal does not interfere with the student's regular program of studies.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. The qualifications of the instructor are approved by the district Superintendent. c. The school district may adopt additional conditions for excusal that it deems reasonable.
<p>Title 22 Sec. 11.34</p>	<p>2. Homebound children unable to attend school on the recommendation of the school physician and the school psychologist or a psychiatrist.</p>
<p>SC 1327</p>	<p>3. Students enrolled in special schools conducted by the Capital Area Intermediate Unit or the Department of Education.</p>
<p>SC 1332, 1333, 1354</p>	<p>The Board may report to appropriate authorities infractions of the law regarding the attendance of students below the age of seventeen (17). The Board shall issue notice to those parents and guardians who fail to comply with the statutory requirements of compulsory attendance that such infractions will be prosecuted according to law.</p> <p>It shall be the policy of the Board to consider the effectiveness and appropriateness to the student's needs of the educational program that is offered each student who habitually and repeatedly absents him/herself from such program.</p> <p>The Board authorizes the Superintendent to suspend a student from a particular class or from school in accordance with the policies of the Board, if sincere efforts by the staff, parents and guardians cannot rectify the pattern of absence. The Superintendent is authorized to establish the criteria to implement this policy.</p>
<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>Procedures for the attendance of students shall be implemented to meet the following requirements:</p>
<p>Title 22 Sec. 11.1, 11.2, 11.3</p>	<p>1. Ensure a school session that conforms with requirements of state regulations.</p>
<p>SC 1332, 1339</p>	<p>2. Govern the keeping of attendance records in accordance with state statutes.</p>
<p>SC 1333, 1338</p>	<p>3. Impose on truant students disciplinary measures for infractions of school rules.</p> <p>4. Identify the habitual truant, investigate the causes of truant behavior, and consider modification of the student's educational program to meet particular needs and interests.</p> <p>5. Ensure that students legally absent have an opportunity to make up work.</p>

<p>SC 1333, 1338, 1354 Title 22 Sec. 11.24</p> <p>SC 510, 1318</p> <p>School Code 510, 1301, 1302, 1318, 1327, 1329, 1330, 1332, 1333, 1338, 1339, 1354, 1546</p> <p>PA Code Title 22 Sec. 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.5, 11.11, 11.13, 11.21, 11.22, 11.23, 11.24, 11.25, 11.28, 11.32, 11.34, 11.41</p> <p>Board Policy 115, 117, 118</p>	<p>6. Issue written notice to any parent or guardian who fails to comply with the compulsory attendance statute, within three (3) days of any proceeding brought under that statute. Such notice shall inform the parent or guardian of the date(s) the absence occurred, that the absence was unexcused and in violation of law, that the parent or guardian is being notified and informed of his/her liability under law for the absence of the student, a truancy intervention meeting, and that further violation during the school term will be prosecuted without notice.</p> <p>Repeated infractions of Board policy requiring the attendance of enrolled students may constitute misconduct and disobedience to warrant the student's discipline including suspension or expulsion from the regular school program.</p>
--	--